

Dependence of RBC death rate on intracellular ribavirin concentration

We assume in Eq. (2) that the death rate, D , of RBCs increases with C . At large values of C , the death rate may become independent of C if other cellular processes and not the ribavirin concentration limit cell death, suggesting that D be a saturable function of C (such as a Hill-function). It follows then that beyond a certain value of C_{avg}^{∞} , where D becomes independent of C , the total drop in Hb , $\Delta Hb = Hb_0 - Hb_{\infty}$, asymptotically reaches a plateau (Fig. S1). Available data (Fig. 5), however, show a significant positive correlation between ΔHb and C_{avg}^{∞} ($R=0.36$, $P<0.05$) suggesting an increase of D with C in the range of values of C of interest here (800-1600 μM ; Fig. 5), which is captured by the form of $D(C)$ in Eq. (2).